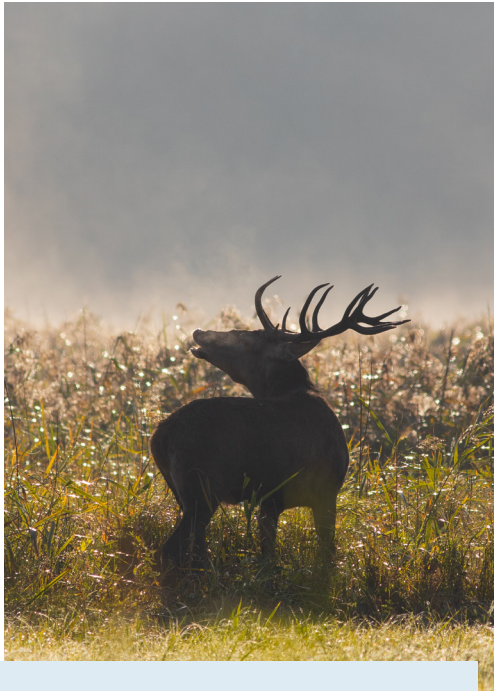


Women's Ministry Newsletter



JANUARY 2025



Channels of Grace in The New Year

by Mandy Williams

My family recently moved to a home that has several acres of pastureland surrounding it. We are not really a hunting family, but we have found ourselves fascinated with the deer population that we can see from our windows, especially one deer in particular. My husband has named him Walter. Some of you may be too young to remember the movie *On Golden Pond*, but if you know, you know! In the film, Henry Fonda spends his summers searching for the prize-winning fish named Walter. Our Walter is a sight to behold. He is at least a 10-point buck (from what we can see).

When anyone in our family thinks they see this massive creature they let it be known throughout the house. Is it him? Is it him? We all rush towards the windows to make certain, and then venture into the yard to try and get a closer look. I would love to have video footage of my family trying to creep stealthily to the fence without spooking Walter. (This is made much harder when you have a 70-pound Goldendoodle at your side.) We have gone to the great length of asking a friend to mount a camera, just so we can monitor when Walter is coming and going. Walter didn't grow to be such an impressive specimen by being dumb. He is often hard to find. He may not come into the open for days. We are always on the lookout.

The daily search for Walter made me appreciate that the one thing that is truly worthy of our awe and worship is not elusive at all. Through the grace of God, we have sure and certain channels to be with God, to hear Him, and to worship Him. Unlike Walter, we do not have to guess where to find the Lord, we can hear Him through Scripture, talk with Him in prayer, and belong to His body through fellowship. Like Zacchaeus in Luke 19:1-10, we can place ourselves in the pathway of Jesus. David Mathis writes, "God's regular channels of grace, as we will see, are his voice, his ear, and his body. He often showers his people with unexpected favor. But typically, the grace that sends our roots deepest, truly grows us up in Christ, prepares our soul for a new day, produces lasting spiritual maturity, and increases the current of our joy streams are the ordinary and unspectacular paths of fellowship, prayer, and Bible intake given practical expression in countless forms and habits."

Do you love the clean slate of a new year? Do you rush out and buy a new calendar to start the year off right? Maybe you are a resolutions type of girl. Or do you pick a word for the year? Do you start a new system or set of goals for this year to look different than the year before? May we also consider rhythms and habits in our lives that put us in the pathway of Jesus. Not to earn His favor or salvation for we have been given this gift through faith in Him. We adopt these rhythms to grow in our maturity, to increase our love for others, but most importantly to love and enjoy Jesus!

In this newsletter, you will find several ways you can put yourself in the pathway of Jesus through Christ and Culture, Community Groups, Bible study options in the New and Old Testaments. If you would like to know more about the value of individual rhythms or habits such as: Bible intake, Scripture meditation and memory, prayer, fellowship, fasting, and more. There will also be a Christian living class on the Habits of Grace.

While the search will continue for Walter, we do not want to miss out on seeing our Savior who promises that when we seek Him, we will find Him. (Matthew 7:7-10).



FPC WOMEN'S MINISTRY 2024-2025

"For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit."

1 Corinthians 12:12-13

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Spring Bible Studies

Habits of Grace

We will study a resource by David Mathis about
Enjoying Jesus Through the Spiritual Disciplines

Led by Mandy Williams

(Teaching & some discussion with optional homework)

Mondays beginning January 6

9:30 - 11:00am ***

Revelation

Led by Mary Holcomb

(Teaching with discussion and prayer)

Second Monday of Every Month

6:30pm

1 Samuel

Led by Amanda Davidson

(Teaching & discussion with self-driven reading/study at home)

Tuesdays beginning January 7

8:00 - 9:30am & 1:30 - 3:00pm

2 Corinthians

Led by Joan Brock

(Teaching with no outside homework)

Tuesdays beginning January 7

9:30 - 11:00am ***

2 Corinthians

Led by Bethany Johnson

(Facilitated small groups through a workbook with homework)

Tuesdays beginning January 7

6:30 - 8:00pm

Women's Community Groups

Led by Amy Davis & Erin Evans, Emily Katherine Johnson
& Robin Sorrow, and Joan Brock & Mandy Williams

Wednesdays after FPC Family Dinner

6:15 - 7:15pm ***

Nursery available during sessions marked with ***

Contact Ms. Nell at 706-346-0525 to sign up for nursery!

Locations to be announced. Register at fpcrome.org/women.

*"Do not be conformed to this world,
but be transformed by the renewal
of your mind, that by testing you
may discern what is the will of
God, what is good and acceptable
and perfect."*

Romans 12:2



A Note from Our New Sr. Director of Student Ministry at FPC

by Rob Edens

I'm thrilled to step into my new role as Sr. Director of Student Ministry at FPC and to begin this exciting new chapter. My passion has always been creating spaces where students feel they belong. Adolescence is such a critical time when we're all asking deep questions like, Am I worth loving? Do I matter? Does anyone care? I believe the gospel answers those questions with a powerful and resounding "Yes!" In Christ, we belong, and it's my heart to help students experience that truth in real and tangible ways.

My wife, Abby, and I have been married since 2016, and together we have a lively 5-year-old son, Campbell, and our dog, Murphy. As a family, we love spending time together and finding joy in the little things - particularly Legos. Personally, I'm passionate about CrossFit, enjoying good BBQ, cheering on Georgia Football, and following the Braves. These hobbies keep me grounded and energized, and I'm always up for talking about sports or fitness!

Right now, I'm also pursuing my Master of Divinity at Reformed Theological Seminary in Atlanta, with plans to complete my degree in the next two years. Seminary has been such a meaningful journey, helping me grow in my understanding of Scripture and my calling to ministry. I'm excited to bring what I've been learning into my work here at FPC.

As I look toward 2025, I'm eager to jump into gospel ministry alongside our staff, volunteers, and students. There's something incredible about being part of the story God is writing in the lives of students. It's an honor to walk alongside them as they navigate their faith and discover the hope and belonging that the gospel offers.

Our family has already felt so welcomed by the FPC community, and we're so grateful. I can't wait to get to know more of you in the months ahead and see how God will work in this new season of ministry!

Support The Ministries of FPC in 2025

January is a wonderful time to reflect on ways to grow and give in the coming year. As you reflect, please pray over the ministries that FPC supports, and consider ways you may be able to support them in 2025.

Community Kitchen opened in January 2009 as a cooperative initiative by several downtown Rome churches to feed those in need. *You can help by donating food, your time as a volunteer, or money to help keep the doors open.*

Habitat for Humanity-Coosa Valley is a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian organization dedicated to eliminating substandard housing locally and globally and to make adequate, affordable shelter a possibility for all God's children. *You can help by working in the ReStore, donating furniture or supplies, or shopping through smile.amazon.com.*

Good Neighbor Ministries is devoted to sharing God's love with persons in immediate need in Rome and Floyd County. They provide assistance with rent and utilities, furniture purchases, funds for work uniforms, and more. *You can help by volunteering your time to help where needed.*

Haven Health has been serving Rome/Floyd County since 1986. They provide free pregnancy tests, abortion alternative counseling, ultrasounds, maternity and baby supplies, and more. *You can help by volunteering, spreading the word about their services, and/or donating.*

The Davies Shelters provide those experiencing homelessness with a bed to sleep in and support in developing the tools and skills to overcome their homelessness. *You can help by volunteering your time, providing a meal, or visiting the Farm Bus.*

The Exchange Club Family Resource Center works to prevent child abuse and help families grow stronger. They provide transformative in-home education and support to Floyd County families, empowering them to create safe, stable and nurturing homes to that their children can grow and thrive. *You can help by volunteering at any of their events, donating money or supplies, or shopping through smile.amazon.com.*

The Salvation Army meets human needs in God's name without discrimination. *You can help by providing or serving a cooked meal (or after-dinner ice cream social!), sorting and hanging clothing at their thrift store, or handing out water in town where folks are gathered during the warmer months.*

Hospitality House ends the cycle of intimate partner violence through prevention, shelter, and individualized services to protect and empower survivors. *You can help by volunteering at their thrift store or donating needed supplies.*

ESP Rome is a nonprofit with a mission to create transformative experiences for people with disabilities and their families. Java Joy is part of ESP! *You can help by booking Java Joy, donating money, or volunteering for summer camp or after school help.*

Northwest GA Hunger Ministries provides food for 200 families per week in their food pantry, as well as nutritious food for cancer patients, sack lunches for 1600 local kids per week (Backpack Buddies), and supplying 13 other community food pantries. *You can help by packing bags for Backpack Buddies.*

All Things Women's Ministry at FPC

Stay connected with all of our happenings and updates!

Scan this QR code or visit
<https://linko.page/fpc-rome-women>



We packed Taylor Estate for the annual Women's Christmas Dinner and enjoyed a wonderful night of fellowship and reflection on what the Savior means to us. Special thanks to Ingram Link, our speaker, and Duffy's Deli, our caterer!



January Birthdays

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 Holly Shadday Meredith Crego Charlotte Roberts	2	3 Cheryl Matthews	4 Maggie Cooper
5 Jessica Gregory	6 Jan Paulling Jenni Glover	7	8 Ashley Banks	9	10 Linda Moore Jackie Prance	11
12 Stephanie Ellis	13 Alison Strait	14 	15 Laura Heath Molly Heath Jacquelyn Shadday	16 Lynn Pittman Kim Groux Mary Jo Harvey Carol Hatcher	17	18 M.E. Rebello Chandler Holcombe
19 Karen Johnson Marcia Abernathy Ginger Wright Adlynn Keith	20	21 Kinslee Clevenger	22	23 Lynn Hosea Tammy Johnson	24 Suzanne Barksdale	25 Melissa Phillips Jessica Baker
26 Abigail Seitz	27 Laureen Gilbert	28 Dottie Hall	29 Suzanne Barksdale	30 Brenda Lacey Sally Echols	31 Dinky Hanks	

Please note that we only display birthdays if they are shared with us in ShelbyNext!

Prayer Needs

- » The Church Construction Project
- » The Spread of the Gospel in Rome
- » Those Who Need Healing
- » Personal Growth for the Year Ahead

Upcoming Events

Christ & Culture Forum
Wednesday Nights in January
Watch the bulletin for details!

FPC Marriage Retreat
Friday, Jan 31 - Saturday, Feb 1
Taylor Estate

Single Ladies Event
Thursday, Feb 13
Time & Place TBD

Women's Retreat
Friday, Mar 21 - Saturday, Mar 22
FPC

Need to talk to Women's Ministry Director, Mandy Williams?

Office Hours: Mon - Fri, 9-3 in CLC 207, or email mandyw@fpcrome.org



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